GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:245
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
FDI IN BROADCASTING SECTOR
V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to resolve the dichotomy in the Foreign Direct Investment Policy on print andelectronic media, her ministry has received any proposal from STAR TV to uplink from India;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether there is a demand from media houses to allow foreign investment at par with the broadcasting sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) and (b) : A proposal has been received from Star News Broadcasting Limited forUplinking of `Star News` Channel in Hindi and English from India.

As per the information furnished, the applicant company has its head office in Hong Kongand registered office in British Virgin Islands. The company has three Directors − Two (2) Americans and One (1) British.

(c) : No Sir, although some sections of the newspaper industry had cited the easy access through cable to foreign TV channels as an argument in favour of foreign investment in print media.

(d) : Does not arise.